



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit:

Signature Armando Chz Date 7/24/01

The citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a

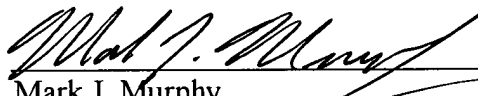
particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

Applicant understands that, because no response has yet been filed by the Examiner, no IDS filing fee is to be charged. If, however, this is incorrect, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039 for any necessary filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 24, 2001


Mark J. Murphy
Registration No. 34,225

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, Ltd.
200 West Adams Street, Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 236-8500